

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

**1. – 32. (Previously Canceled)**

- 33. (Currently Amended)** A method for eliminating or reducing normal but undesired adipose tissue in a patient which comprises administering a controlled release formulation to the patient by injection into the adipose tissue at a local area such that undesired adipose tissue in the local area is selectively eliminated or reduced, said formulation comprising a substance which eliminates or prevents formation or reduces the lipid content of the cells of adipose tissue, said substance being provided in a controlled release carrier.
- 34. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 33, where the substance which eliminates or prevents formation or reduces the lipid content of cells of adipose tissue is TNF- $\alpha$ .
- 35. (Currently Amended)** The method of claim 33, where the substance which eliminates or prevents formation or reduces the lipid content of cells of adipose tissue is a cytokine regulatory agent; a protein affecting fat metabolism; leptin; orexin; an antisense RNA molecule which knocks out the specific activity of a protein needed for fat cell maintenance; a DNA, either in the form of plasmid or virus, which induces the expression of apoptosis-inducing factors; a drug that kills fat cells; methotrexate; bromo-deoxyuridine; actinomycin D; nocodazole; brefeldin A; a peptide, having functionality which kills fat cells; prolactin; a beta-adrenergic stimulator; or, an alpha-2 adrenergic inhibitor.
- 36. (Previously presented)** The method of claim 33, where the controlled release carrier comprises a poly(lactide-co-glycolide) material.
- 37. (Canceled)**

38. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 33, where the controlled release formulation is injected multiple times distributed in the local area of the undesired adipose tissue.
39. **(Canceled)**
40. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 33, where release of the substance which eliminates or prevents formation or reduces the lipid content of the cells of adipose tissue is effected over at least 3 days by the controlled release carrier.
41. **(Canceled)**
42. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 40, where the substance which eliminates or prevents formation or reduces the lipid content of cells of adipose tissue is released in a substantially equal amount for each of the days of release.
43. **(Canceled)**
44. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 34, where the TNF- $\alpha$  is provided in poly(lactide-co-glycolide) microspheres as the controlled release carrier in an amount of from 0.1 to 20% by weight.
45. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~37~~ 34, where the controlled release carrier provides in vivo release of the TNF- $\alpha$  for a period of 7 to 60 days.
46. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 33, where the controlled release carrier is comprised of a poly(lactide), poly(glycolide), poly(lactic acid), poly(glycolic acid), polyanhydride, polyorthoester, polyetherester, polycaprolactone, polyesteramide, polycarbonate, polycyanoacrylate, polyurethane, polyacrylate, blends or copolymers of the above polymers, a hydrogel, an alginate or modified alginate, or a polyethylene glycol group-containing macromolecule for conjugation of the active substance.

47. **(Currently Amended)** The method claim 33 wherein the formulation comprises two or more substances in the controlled release carrier having a combined action of eliminating or preventing formation or reducing the lipid content of the cells of adipose tissue.
48. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 47, wherein at least one of the substances is released from the controlled release carrier later in time than another of the substances.
49. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 48, wherein a first substance released is an anti-angiogenic compound which hinders the blood supply to adipose tissue and a second substance is released later in time which induces apoptosis in adipose tissue.
50. **(Previously presented)** The method of claim 33, wherein the controlled release carrier is provided in the form of injectable microparticles or as an injectable solution or gel.
51. **(New)** A method for eliminating or reducing normal but undesired adipose tissue in a patient which comprises administering a controlled release formulation of at least one active agent to the patient by injection into the adipose tissue at a local area such that sustained release of the at least one active agent in the local area is achieved and undesired adipose tissue in the local area is selectively eliminated or reduced,  
said active agent comprising a beta-adrenergic stimulator substance which eliminates or prevents formation of or reduces the lipid content of the cells of adipose tissue, and  
said controlled release formulation comprises the at least one active agent in a controlled release carrier in the form of injectable microparticles.
52. **(New)** The method of claim 51, where the controlled release carrier comprises a poly(lactide-co-glycolide) material.

53. (New) The method of claim 51, where the controlled release formulation is injected multiple times distributed in the local area of the undesired adipose tissue.
54. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein the sustained release of the at least one active agent in the local area is effected over at least 3 days by the controlled release carrier.
55. (New) The method of claim 54, where the sustained release of the at least one active agent in the local area is in a substantially equal amount for each of the days of release.
56. (New) The method of claim 51, where the beta-adrenergic stimulator substance is provided in poly(lactide-co-glycolide) microspheres as the controlled release carrier in an amount of from 0.1 to 20% by weight.
57. (New) The method of claim 51, where the controlled release carrier comprises of a poly(lactide), poly(glycolide), poly(lactic acid), poly(glycolic acid), polyanhydride, polyorthoester, polyetherester, polycaprolactone, polyesteramide, polycarbonate, polycyanoacrylate, polyurethane, polyacrylate, blends or copolymers of the above polymers, a hydrogel, an alginate or modified alginate, or a polyethylene glycol group-containing macromolecule for conjugation of the active agent.
58. (New) The method of claim 51, where the controlled release carrier provides release of the substance in the local area for a period of 7 to 60 days.
59. (New) A method for eliminating or reducing normal but undesired adipose tissue in a patient which comprises administering a beta-adrenergic stimulator substance, which eliminates or prevents formation of or reduces the lipid content of the cells of adipose tissue, to the patient by injection into the adipose tissue at a local area such that sustained release of the substance in the local area is achieved and undesired adipose tissue in the local area is selectively eliminated, reduced or reduced in lipid content.

- 60. (New)** The method of claim 59, which further comprises co-administering another active substance to the local area which facilitates eliminating or reducing or reducing the lipid content of the undesired adipose tissue in the local area.